





PUBLISHER

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) GERMANY

Charlottenstraße 68 10117 Berlin Germany T. +49 911 43 000

iom-germany@iom.int www.germany.iom.int

F. +49 911 43 00 260

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration officO

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General information on health care

The health care and insurance systems are divided into two groups: Public (free of charge) and private (private health insurance starting from 20 to 150 euros per month, depending on age, gender, and level of coverage, ie health services. Contacts information of some private health insurance companies like WIENER and UNIQA are under section 7). Treatment and medications are fully covered for citizens registered under the umbrella of Public Health Insurance. Each patient needs to report to a local primary health care center in order to get a designated general practitioner (GP) who will follow his/her health condition and provide referral when needed. The GP also issues referrals for further in-patient treatment or other diagnostic procedures.

The following costs and services are covered by the health insurance scheme and free for patients with public health insurance:

- New-born babies and children until age 6: complete medical services covered including preventive and regular check-ups, vaccination and specialized healthcare
- School children and young adults until the age of 19: complete medical services covered including preventive and regular checkups, vaccination and specialized healthcare
- Women: complete medical services covered including preventive and regular check-up, gynecology, pregnancy, and other specialized healthcare



 Adults: complete medical services covered including preventive and regular check-up, and specialized healthcare (ophthalmology, cardiology, internal medicine, surgery, dental services, oncology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, dermatology, psychology).

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Each municipality in the Republic of Serbia has a primary health care center, with general practitioners responsible for providing basic health care services, check-ups, and referrals. Furthermore, there are four major health care centers in four different parts of the country responsible for providing specialized health care services. Those are:

- Clinical Center of Vojvodina
- Clinical Center of Serbia
- Clinical Center Kragujevac
- Clinical Center Nis

There is also the Military Medical Academy (VMA), Which is an independent health care center in Belgrade and one of the best rated medical institutions in the country, where specialized health care services are provided and it is also available for civilians registered under the public health insurance scheme.

Contacts of the main health care centers are available under section 7.

Admission to medical facilities

Patients have first to contact the primary health center in their place of residence/municipality, if further examination or treatment is needed they will be referred by their designated general practitioner to a hospital or one of the main clinical centers responsible for providing specialized health care services. If a patient is insured by the public health insurance, a health booklet is sufficient in order to be admitted for a check-up or treatment, but it should be scheduled previously through a phone call or online (Emergency cases do not need an appointment).

Availability and costs of medication

Most of the medication is available, and costs are a little lower than the ones in other European countries. A list of essential medicines that guides the procurement and supply of medications in

the public sector can be found at the following link:

http://www.who.int/selection_medicines/country_lists/ SRB_fully_covered_2010.pdf?ua=1

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Republic Fund of Health Insurance is the main public institution implementing the policy of the Ministry of Health. Funds of Public Health Insurance are insured by the mandatory contribution of all employed citizens or employers in the private sector. There are two categories for eligibility: Employed citizens have health insurance at the expense of their employer (this is mandatory); unemployed citizens have insurance at the expense of the Republic Fund. In both cases, if one family member has health insurance, unemployed family members under the age of 26 are automatically insured and can receive free public health care at the expense of their insured family members. There are no defined coverage levels.

Registration procedure: Returnees must fill in a registration form and submit valid personal documents (ID cards) to the local Public Health Insurance Fund branch office at their place of residence/municipality so they can receive a health booklet. In case the returnee is employed, the employer is obliged to follow up on the registration procedure and to obtain a health booklet for the employee.

Required documents: Filled-in registration form, Serbian ID card, and proof of unemployment from the National Employment Service.

General information on labour market

In the year 2021 the labor force in Serbia comprised of 2.273,591 people (58% male and 42% female), out of which 82% are employed in companies (public or private), while around 15% are entrepreneurs or self-employed.

The majority of the employees are between 40-44 years of age, followed by the 35-39-year-old and then 45-49-year-old. The least employed are young people age between19-24. The public sector employs most of the workforce, as of 2019. The labor force is divided into three major categories: Service >42%, Industry >35% and Agriculture >23%.

The average monthly income in October 2021 was 66,048 RSD (approx. 563 EUR). In 2021, 341,500 people were officially unemployed (approx. 10%), according to the National Employment Service's as of October 2021.

Finding employment

Duties related to finding employment are being performed by the National Employment Service and its local branch offices for employment in each municipality in Serbia. By applying to the labor market with the National Employment Service, the job seeker becomes entitled to:

- being informed about employment possibilities and job positions,
- mediation in employment incountry and abroad,
- professional orientation and counseling in terms of career planning.

Vacant positions are announced at the National Employment Service website: http://www.nsz.gov.rs/live/trazite-posao/svi-poslovi

Other job opportunities, can be found on Infostud, which is the most popular job-seeking website that a lot of companies use to advertise vacant positions https://poslovi.infostud.com/



Unemployment Assistance

There is no financial assistance for the officially registered unemployed citizens. However, some support is available through the National Employment Service which provides counseling and, if needed additional education, pregualification opportunities, and vocational training. Also, DIMAK Center in cooperation with the National Employment Service offers education and training opportunities, which are listed in the next paragraph. Contact details of DIMAK's office in Belgrade can be found under section 7. If registered with the National Employment Service, unemployed citizens can benefit from discounted public transportation costs and covered public health insurance.

Further education and training

Further education, prequalification possibilities, and vocational training are available through the National Employment Service and its branch offices in each municipality throughout the country. Their programs include:

- Professional internship
- Clubs for active job search
- Prequalification
- Training for business

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: There are no specific eligibility requirements in order to register in the National Employment Service, but the applicant must possess a valid Serbian ID card.

Registration procedure: Unemployed citizens can register themselves in the National Employment Services branch office at their place of residence/municipality. After the successful registration they are considered as official job seekers and they are automatically entitled to receive benefits. Every job seeker is obliged to meet with the case worker every six months and discuss future plans, employment or education possibilities.

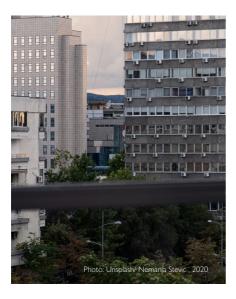
Required documents: The applicants must submit filled- in registration form, copy of their ID card, and educational certificate(s) of the last obtained educational degree.

Educational certificates or school/ university diploma do not need to be attested. If applicants do not possess any certificates or diplomas, they can still enroll as candidates without formal education.

General information on housing

Housing average rent varies and there is a significant difference in the costs of the monthly rent in Belgrade city and other parts of the country. One furnished bedroom apartment in Belgrade costs between 300 and 500 Euro per month, depending on the location. Other cities are less expensive, and the prices range between 150 -300 Euro. Also, utility costs depend on the size of the apartment/house and monthly consumption. Minimum costs are estimated at around 60 EUR, while on average they are around 100 EUR per month.

In general, there is a high availability of rentable apartments and houses in larger city areas (Belgrade, Nis, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Subotica), while the smaller municipalities in rural areas have fewer options and it is in general more challenging to find apartments to rent in those parts of the country.



Finding accomodation

Accommodation in general is searched for through advertisement websites, real estate agencies, and the newspapers' marketing pages. There is no public or private organization which provides service in finding accommodation. Main websites are:

- https://www.halooglasi.com/ nekretnine
- https://www.nekretnine.rs/
- https://cityexpert.rs/
- https://www.4zida.rs/

Social grants for housing

Temporary accommodation for up to 14 days for Serbian returnees is provided through the Urgent Reception of Returnees Center, located in Bela Palanka. Accommodation at the Center of Urgent Reception of Returnees is based on the instructions issued by the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration. Families or individuals who claim/sign a statement that they do not have any shelter or accommodation possibilities upon returning to Serbia can be accommodated in the center. Contact with the center is available through the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (available under section 7).

Social grants for housing in the form of assignment of building materials and assistance with the purchase of houses mainly in rural areas are are sometimes available through a local Trustee office/Council for Migration(depending on whether there is a suitable project at that time) The assistance consists of providing housing support, assigning

packages of construction materials for adapting houses or purchasing rural houses. A complete list of all the offices in every municipality in Serbia is available at the website of the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (http://www.kirs.gov.rs/).

There is also a temporary accommodation available for vulnerable groups such as UMC and VoT provided by the Center for Social Work. Accommodation in a safe house or shelter is provided by the center once a person is identified as a VoT or UMC, in need of assistance.



Access for returnees

Temporary housing facilities: The Urgent Reception of Returnees Center is available for those returnees who claim that they do not have any shelter or accommodation possibilities upon return. Returnees can contact the airport office of Commissariat for Refugees and Migration upon arrival and submit request for urgent accommodation at the center for a maximum of 14 days.

Social housing: Shelter for Adults and Elderly, provides free accommodation, professional assistance, food and medical service for all adults in the city of Belgrade that have no place to stay and are in need of social assistance. No specific conditions or documents are required in order to be accepted for accommodation.

Required documents: In order to be accepted for temporary accommodation returnees have to sign a statement confirming that they do not have any accommodation possibilities or friends and relatives who can assist them.

Social welfare system

Social welfare branch offices (Center for Social work) are located in every municipality in Serbia. The scope of activities offered by the center includes assistance to:

- individuals or families with no income,
- disabled or elderly people who are not able to take care of themselves,
- orphans,
- drug- and alcohol-dependents,
- convicted family members,
- parents who are still minors
- families with 3 or more children

Furthermore, there is special support for preventing family violence and support for victims of trafficking. The social welfare services in Serbia are free of charge and there is no financial participation for the beneficiaries. Benefits of receiving social support are the following:

- Counselling and mediation,
- A free one-way ticket to the place of residence
- Public kitchens provide one daily meal for those categorized as being part of the vulnerable population (in places where such kitchens exist)
- Single financial support payment 9,115 RSD (78 EUR) as of October 2021)
- Temporary accommodation the Centre for Social Work decides on the placement of persons in shelters; however, the admission process can take a long time.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: The Social Welfare system is available for everyone who meets the criteria and is officially recognized by the Center for Social Welfare as a socially vulnerable (i.e. person with no income, poor living conditions, etc.)

Registration procedure: The returnee must register with the local Center for Social Work branch office at their place of residence/municipality. Upon registration the assigned case worker is responsible for following the case and assigning social support/benefits.

Required documents: A valid ID card, proof of unemployment and medical insurance are required. Other requirements depend on the type of social benefit the person wishes to apply for.

Pension system

The most common type of pension system in Serbia is the Public Pension Fund, which does not require beneficiaries' direct financial participation, instead, funds are ensured through a monthly contribution to the fund by the employer in form of a mandatory pension insurance. Once the returnee is eligible for a pension (see box below for eligibility criteria), they will receive a monthly pension allowance and will have covered health insurance.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: One of these conditions must be met to receive a pension:

- Min. 65 years old for men and min. 63 years for women, as well as at least 15 years of work (all paid taxes)
- 40 years of work for men and 38 years for women and at least 57 years old for men and 57 years old for women (all paid taxes)
- 45 years of work (all paid taxes) for both men and women

Registration procedure: The returnee has to register with the Republic Pension and Disability Fund branch office at their place of residence/municipality, in order to receive monthly pension fees and to have pension/disability benefits such as free public transportation and health insurance. The branch offices are in every city and the registration procedure must be completed in person at the respective branch office.

After a successful registration, the applicant is automatically provided with the benefits. Different forms need to be filled in to meet different criteria and to receive different levels of pension and disability fees (mostly depending on years of work, salary level, etc).

Required documents: ID card, proof of life certificate, working booklet, registration form.

Vulnerable groups

Among vulnerable groups are families with no income, physically disabled persons, elderly who are not able to take care of themselves, children without parents,

families where one family member is a drug- or alcohol dependent, or where one family member is a convict or parents who are still minors. Families with three or more children, troubled minors, mentally disabled persons, and victims of domestic violence are also classified as vulnerable. In general, assistance to all vulnerable groups is provided by the Center for Social Work and through its local branch offices. Contacts of the center's branches in major Serbian cities can be found under section 7.

Besides the assistance of the Center for Social Work, certain NGOs can provide assistance as well. For example, the NGO "Atina" provides assistance to vulnerable groups such as victims of trafficking. Atina has developed several different programs, whose common goal is to facilitate the creation of a sustainable system of social inclusion. Activities within these programs range from providing assistance in approach to and realization of fundamental rights, through the development of an adequate approach for the inclusion of beneficiaries in different systems (health, social security, etc.), up to the rehabilitation of consequences that have occurred due to sustained violence, and situation of trafficking, as well as support in gaining independence. Three basic types of support are implemented via the Temporary House, Open Club, and Field Support Team. (Their contact details can be found under section 7).

Another kind of assistance is also provided by the Shelter for Adults and Elderly (Prihvatilište za stara i odrasla lica), which offers free accommodation, professional assistance, food, and medical service for

all adults in the city of Belgrade that have no place to stay and need social assistance. No specific conditions or documents are required in order to be accepted for accommodation. The Center for Protection of Infants, Children and Youth (Centar za zaštitu odojčadi, dece i omladine) provides accommodation and care for children until an appropriate family environment is ensured (biological or foster family), or until the child turns 18 years old and becomes capable of independent life. The center accepts all unaccompanied minors that are unable to stay with their family. (contacts are available under section 7). The Center for Protection of Victims of Trafficking (VoT) is a governmental institution for social protection under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Policy. The center is responsible for providing reception and accommodation for identified VoTs. Accommodation is provided in one of the safe houses. Contact with the center is established through the Police, a local center for social work, or NGOs.

score determines whether the applicant can enroll at university free of charge or must pay full tuition fees - there is no middle level of payment.

General information on education

In Serbia, there is both public and private education. The public education system is free for all children citizens of Serbia. Elementary school is mandatory for all citizens of Serbia and upon the completion of the elementary/ primary education, students take a mandatory exam for enrolment in a preferred high school of their choice, which is also free. After high school, students can opt for university education. Each faculty has a mandatory enrolment exam. The high school grades average + exam's final

Cost, loans, and stipends

As primary and secondary education is free of charge, there are no tuition fees for attending elementary and high school. Costs for university education are not standard as each faculty has its tuition fees, which could be between 500 EUR and 2.300 EUR per year. At the beginning of a school year, each faculty sets its score threshold for a limited number of paid scholarships. If the applicant's grades are under the defined threshold, then the student is obliged to pay full tuition fees.

While, if the grades are above the threshold, then the student is entitled to a free scholarship, but he/she is obliged to maintain 8,5 score average throughout the school year. Student loans are available at the university level for all students in their first study year. High school grade average and monthly household income average are used as ranking criteria. Students can apply for a loan at their faculty during October each year, and loans are distributed over the course of 10 months. Currently, the monthly loan is 8,400 RSD (71 EUR).

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

There are two ways to verify a foreign diploma in Serbia: First, if the foreign diploma is to be used only for employment purposes, then the returnee should contact ENIC/NARIC center under the Ministry of Education. The verification process lasts 90 days and costs 7,500 RSD dinars. Verification can only be done directly at their office in Belgrade (contact details are in section 7). Documents needed are the following:

- Application form;
- Original diploma;
- Translation of the diploma in Serbian by the court interpreter;
- A summary of the curricula;
- Translation of the sealed exams transcript by the court interpreter;
- Short biography;
- Proof of payment.

Second, if the foreign diploma is needed

in order to continue education in Serbia, returnees should address the University of Belgrade or the elementary or high school they intend to enroll in. For the verification process, the following documents are needed:

- Original diploma;
- Translation of the diploma in Serbian by the court interpreter;
- A summary of the curricula;
- Translation of the sealed exams transcript by the court interpreter;
- Proof of payment

Access for returnees

Registration procedure: Registration of children is performed directly at the preferred school of enrolment (elementary or high school).

Required documents: The child's parent / legal guardian is obligated to enroll their child in a school. Elementary schools are obliged to register and accept children based on a submitted application by their parents / legal guardian, who also needs to submit all the necessary documents, including:

- Birth certificate
- Certificate of residence
- Proof of medical examination of the child— to be obtained from the health centers
- Confirmation that the child has attended a preparatory preschool program.

If the parent / legal guardian does not have all the necessary documentation, the children are conditionally enrolled in the school until the acceptance (recognition) of their foreign school documentation.

General situation of children and infants

Serbia has been a member of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for 30 years, as the most important international document in the field of children's rights. The Convention obliges to respect the undertaken obligations and continuous work on the protection and promotion of the rights of the youngest population. It obliges state institutions and bodies, civil society organizations, independent bodies, local self-governments, but also families and each individual. The Government of Serbia strives to ensure that the basic principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN recommendations are incorporated into all policies at the national and local levels in order to fully realize the rights of the child.

In the previous period, a large number of new laws and strategies were adopted which improve children's rights in the field of violence prevention, education, health care, prevention of discrimination, resolving status issues, primarily of Roma children, migrants, refugees, and internally displaced persons. Every child, regardless of the social background of the parents, has the right to free health care and education (elementary and high school). The living conditions for children growing up depending on the region where the child lives (more developed North or poorer South and East of Serbia), as well as on the social status of the parents (uneducated, unemployed). Children use different types of material assistance that are financed from the national or local budget (financial social assistance, child allowance, and one-time

financial social assistance). Most children in Serbia grow up together with their parents as the basic and best caregivers. In cases where parents cannot fulfill their inherent responsibility to adequately care for children, the state is authorized to intervene under the provisions Family Law, the Law on Social Protection and the Law on financial assistance to families with children.

(Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

The Council for the Rights of the Child is an advisory body of the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The tasks of this council are aimed at submitting initiatives, proposals, opinions and analyzes to the Government of the Republic of Serbia related to the implementation of children's rights in the Republic of Serbia, as well as monitoring the implementation of laws and giving initiatives for their changes. Contact details can be found at section 7. Within the Government institution of the Protector of Citizens, there is a sector that deals with the protection of children's rights. It primarily deals with the protection of children from all forms of violence - domestic violence, sexual violence, peer violence, child neglect, begging, education of children with disabilities. The Center for the Rights of the Child in Belgrade is an association of citizens founded in 1997, whose main goal is to realize the rights of the child in the Republic of Serbia following the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The main direction of the Center's activities is aimed at creating a favorable social and legislative framework for the full realization of children's rights in

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Serbia through activities aimed at introducing and implementing laws, policies and practices that enable the improvement of children's welfare, protection of their rights and their full participation in society. UNICEF is the United Nations Children's Fund, a highly recognized world organization that deals with the rights and welfare of children.

UNICEF supports reform processes in the Republic of Serbia to ensure that the rights of every child are realized in the areas of early development, education, child protection, adolescent and youth development.

Access for returnees

A birth certificate is required as well as a vaccination record. The mandatory **preparatory preschool program** (PPP) caters to children aged 5.5. to 6.5. It is a condition for enrolling in primary school. Documents needed:

- Birth certificate
- Completed application for enrollment
- Children from vulnerable social groups, Roma children, can enroll in PPP without the necessary documentation

Primary education is obligatory and free in public schools. Enrollment lasts from April till the end of August. Children enrolled are betwen six and at most seven and a half years old. If not enrolled, municipality files a misdeamnor report against parents. If no necessary documents, temoporary conditional enrollment possible. There is a right to education in specialized institutions for children with developmental disabilites. Documents needed:

- Birth certificate
- Certificate of completed preschool preparatory program PPP, issued by the institution where the child attended the program
- Certificate of completed medical examination and vaccination
- Certificate of residence of the child
- Children from vulnerable social groups can enroll in school without proof of parental residence and the necessary documentation.

If the child has finished the 7th and 8th grade of primary school abroad, it is not necessary to take the qualification exam in the Republic of Serbia for enrollment in high school (except for enrollment in Philological and Mathematical Gymnasium and art schools). A person who completed primary school abroad may enroll in secondary school if their certificate of completed primary school is nostrified. The Law on Health Care of the Republic of Serbia covers school children and young people up to the age of 19, with complete medical services, including preventive and regular examinations, vaccinations, and specialized health care.

7 CONTACTS

National Employment Service

Govermentgal employment service Kralja Milutina 8, 11000 Belgrade (+381) 11 29 29 800 w w w.nsz.gov.rs/live/ trazite-posao/svi-poslovi

UNIOA insurance

Private health insurance
Milutina Milankovica 134g
11070 New Belgrade
+381 11 20 24 100
info@uniqa.rs
www.dzo.uniqa.rs

Clinical Center Vojvodina

Public medical center Hajduk Veljkova 1, 21 000 Novi Sad +381 021 4843484 uprava@kcv.rs http://www.website.org www.kcv.rs/

Republic Health Insurance Fund

Health insurance service and admission to health system

lovana Marinovica no. 2

Jovana Marinovica no. 2 11000 Belgrade +381 11/7350-900 kontakt.centar@rfzo.rs https://www.rfzo.rs/index.php

TRIGLAV insurance

Private health insurance
Milutina Milankovica 7a street,
11070 New Belgrade
+381 11 33 05 150
korisnickicentar@triglav.rs
www.triglav.rs

Clinical Center Kragujevac

Public medical center Zmaj Jovina 30, 34000 Kragujevac +381 034 50 50 50 kc-kg@kc-kg.rs www.kc-kg.rs/

Republic Pension and Disability Insurance Fund

Admission to state pension system
Nemanjina no. 30
11000 Belgrade

011/3060-680 kontakt@pio.rs https://www.pio.rs/

Center for Social Work

Social welfare service, provision of social assistance

Nemanjina no. 22-26 11000 Belgrade +381 11 303 86 61 socijalna.zastita@minrzs.gov.rs www.minrzs.rs

Climical Center Nis

Public medical center

Bulevar Dr Zorana Djindjica no. 48 18 000 Nis +381 018 506-906 kcnis@eunet.rs www.kcnis.rs/

Center for Social Work

Social welfare service, provision of social assistance

Ruska 4 11 000 Belgrade +381 011 2650-329 info@gcsrbg.org www.gcsrbg.org/

DIMAK Center

NGO providing reintegration support to returnees Ms Jelena Micovic

Koste Abrasevica 10 11 000 Belgrade, Serbia +381 011 2400386 dimak-serbia@giz.de www.build-your-future.net/en/ serbien

Military Medical Academy

Medical center Crnotravska 17, 11 000 Belgrade +381 011 266 11 22 vma@mod.gov.rs www.vma.mod.gov.rs/sr/

Center for Social Work

Social welfare service, provision of social assistance

Svetozara Markovica 41 18 000 Nis +381 018/244881 office@csr-nis.rs www.csr-nis.rs/

Clinical Center of Serbia

Public medical center
Pasterova 2
11 000 Belgrade, Serbia
+381 011/360 9999
mediacentar@kcs.ac.rs
www.kcs.ac.rs/index.php/cp/
home-2

ENIC/NARIC Center

Public admisitration office for verification of foreign school diplomas
Majke Jevrosime no. 51
11000 Belgrade
+381 11 3345 746
agencija@azk.gov.rs
www.azk.gov.rs

7 CONTACTS

NVO Atina

NGO providing various support and counselling programs for women including VOTs +381 61 63 84 071 office@atina.org.rs www.atina.org.rs/sr/pocetna

Migrant assistance in Serbia

The Virtual Counselling project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Germany. Migrants living in Germany who are considering a return are offered return and reintegration counselling by IOM staff in Serbia. Local IOM staff can be contacted in English and Serbian through online messengers.

This service aims to empower migrants to return in dignity by informing them about various return and reintegration options and assistance programmes.

Contact Igor at IOM Serbia

Viber: +381 633 727 83



Measures to be undertaken before return

- General Documentation: Bring all official documents received during stay in Germany, including certificates/diplomas from school, birth certificate, etc.
- Transportation: Get information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey: Serbia has two types of transport. International (planes, buses, and trains) and local transportation within the country (buses and trains).
- Health Documentation: Check vaccinations (especially for children/ and where vaccination is mandatory before starting school).
- Accommodation: Find temporary accomadation.

Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- Official Registration: Register with relevant authorities. The personal identity card (ID, licna karta) is a pre-condition for achieving any rights (health care, employment, university education, etc.) The ID card is provided through the local police station.
- Health: (Re-)register for the health insurance and the pension insurance system with the Republic Health Insurance Fund and the Republic Pension and Disability Fund.
- Employment: Apply for an active employment search with the National Employment Service.
- Further Education and Training: Contact services assisting with the search for jobs and providing additional training/education opportunities.

